Remarks

Claims 1, 3-15 are at issue. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Kawaguchi (USPN 6,278,637). Claims 3-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9-15 are allowable.

The limitations of claim 2 have been incorporated into claim 1. All claims should now be allowable.

Prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

(Rezeanu)

Bv

Attorney for the Applicant

Dale B. Halling

Customer No.: 25007

Reg. No.: 38,170

Phone: (719) 447-1990 Fax: (719) 447-9815

Certificate of Mailing

hereby certify that an <u>Response</u> is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

Signature (Dale Halling)